



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Public Affairs**

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### **Local man found guilty in D.C. home invasion robbery**

**Washington, D.C.** - Elijah Phillips, 33, of Washington, D.C., was found guilty on November 12, 2009, of 12 felony counts, including First Degree Burglary of a Senior Citizen While Armed, Four Counts of Armed Robbery, and related firearms offenses, following a jury trial before the Honorable Ronna L. Beck of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips today.

According to the government's evidence at trial, on June 5, 2009, at about 11:50 p.m., the defendant and two accomplices entered an apartment of a 77-year-old District resident in Northeast Washington, D.C. carrying handguns. At the time, the apartment owner and several friends were playing cards in her living room. Defendant Phillips was the first to enter the apartment, and walked directly to the table where the victims were sitting, and demanded their money. Phillips and his accomplices then took money from the four women who were sitting at the table, and attempted to take money from a gentleman who was also there, but found that he had none.

At trial, the government showed that defendant Phillips was an acquaintance of one of the victims, and had met several of the other victims on a previous occasion. The government also established that several months before this incident, the defendant had threatened to rob the same victims when they gathered to play cards.

Immediately after the robbery, one of the victims was able to identify the defendant by his name, "Elijah," and gave the police additional information about where the defendant might be living. Within hours of the robbery, witnesses confirmed the defendant as a suspect by photo identification and, at trial, four of the victims positively identified the defendant as one of the suspects who robbed them that night.

In announcing the verdict, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips thanked members of the Metropolitan Police Department, including Investigator Steven "Zack" Greene, Investigator Dino McFadden, Officer Travis Maguire, and Latent Fingerprint Examiner Barbara Evans. Acting

U.S. Attorney Phillips also commended Paralegal Specialist Tameka Garcia, Crime Victim Specialist Michael Hailey, and Litigation Support Specialist Thomas Royal, who helped prepare the case for trial. Finally, he thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney William Woodruff, who investigated, indicted, and prosecuted the case at trial.

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